Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT Department of Community Services



PUBLIC SAFETY
"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION
"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT "Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY
"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP
"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING
"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

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Community Services Mediation Program Announces New Service in March 2014

(Bel Air, MD) - - The Harford County Community Mediation Program (HCCMP) is excited to announce The Family Parenting Program. It is a new service beginning in March 2014. Couples that are in the midst of conflict and would like help developing a parenting plan have access to a neutral inclusive style of free mediation services. HCCMP joins Community Mediation Maryland (CMM) and 16 other Centers across the State in offering this supplemental service in addition to the Harford County Circuit Court - Family Court Services program.

Through the Family Parenting Program, specially trained mediators called Parenting Plan Specialists, will meet with families in crisis to assist in developing parenting plans and assist in making decisions about the care of their children. The Parenting Plan Specialists will provide free mediation services to families before they reach the court system.

The Family Parenting Program increases the comprehensiveness of the well-established Harford County Community Mediation Program. The program acts as a court diversion intervention to help keep families out of court system while encouraging them to create custody and child care plans that are beneficial using the Inclusive Style of mediation.

The Harford County Community Mediation Program (HCCMP) is a part of the Harford County Department of Community Services. It offers mediation and facilitation services at no charge to the citizens of Harford County.

Contact an intake specialist, visit <u>www.harfordcountymediation.org</u> or call Susan Fisher, HCCMP Coordinator, at 410-638-4807 to learn more about the program or how to become a mediator.

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"Preserving Harford's past. Promoting Harford's future."